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Friday
November 14,
2006

OFFICIAL AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT WEEKLY NEWSLETTER Vol. I, No. 30

ASEPA Survey Concludes Most Piggery Owners Unaware of Laws, But Willing to Change

(ASEPA Press Release) – “Team Lepto”, a multi-agency group of educators, scientists, and inspectors headed by the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (ASEPA), recently completed a piggery survey and public education campaign during Phase I of the ASEPA Piggery Compliance Program. Although preliminary findings from the survey found 97% of piggeries to be non-compliant with local laws, the majority of people surveyed on Tutuila, Aunu'u and Manu'a said they are willing to change their piggeries to comply with health and environmental regulations. Having compliant piggeries will help improve water quality of the Territory's drinking water, streams, and beaches, and help prevent the spread of diseases like leptospirosis.

According to the survey, there are approximately 940 piggeries and 7,800 pigs in American Samoa. The most common violations among owners were no Land Use Permit (92% of piggeries are unpermitted), inadequate waste disposal (82% of piggeries discharged directly to streams, utilized open-bottom cesspools, or had improperly constructed septic tanks), and setbacks (60% of piggeries were built too close to buildings like homes and umus, and 23% were too close to streams). Of the 940 piggeries, 30% do not have enough land to meet setbacks, and must be permanently closed.

Despite the violations and widespread potential for diseases from pig wastes, the survey revealed that less than one-fifth of piggery owners had ever received a warning or citation, and most were unaware of the health risks associated with inadequate pig waste management. ASEPA provided targeted education to every piggery owner surveyed, and made each owner aware of the technical requirements of a legal piggery, and potential future enforcement actions against illegal ones.

ASEPA educators also explained to owners the reasons behind the piggery laws. Human overpopulation and increased development coupled with land scarcity have resulted in densely populated villages where people and pigs are forced to live in closer proximity to each other than in the past. This overcrowding creates unfavorable living situations and facilitates the transmission of diseases between animals and humans.

The good news is that more than 80% of pig owners want to make their piggeries compliant with local laws, and reported that they would initiate the permitting process following the survey. Beginning next month, ASEPA will revisit and inspect all piggeries during Phase II of its Piggery Compliance Program. At that time, ASEPA compliance officers will issue official warning letters to owners of non-compliant piggeries. Owners will have 30 days to submit a Land Use Permit application that includes plans for a legal piggery to avoid further enforcement action.

ASEPA is encouraged by the initial positive response from piggery owners, and by the continuing cooperation from community and government leaders. In fact, Governor Togiola Tulafono proclaimed his strong support in a March 10, 2005 press release where he urged pig owners and the community to “heed the warnings and advisories given by local officials.” He stated, “the only way we can overcome this threat to life is if the community works together.”

ASEPA would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Secretary of Samoan Affairs, PC Mauga T. Asuega and Deputy Secretary HTC Nanai K.S. Afuola, as well as the village pulenu'u for their assistance in the villages. ASEPA especially thanks the community for their support, and the piggery owners for their cooperation and information.

Please contact the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency at 633-2304 for more information.

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(Left) A participant in the YWCA/CNR Sewing Project works next to a display featuring some of the clothing produced by her class. Seventeen participants received their Certificates of Completion from the Project last week. (Photo courtesy CNR)

(Right) These happy participants in the YWCA/CNR Sewing Project display their Certificates of Completion at the concluding ceremony last week. (Photo Courtesy CNR)



YWCA Participants Complete CNR Sewing Project

By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer

In the days when Tutuila had only a few stores, and even fewer sewing shops, you could always find individuals sewing their own clothes for themselves and their families. These days, most people sew their own clothes even less often than they grow their own food. After all, why go through all that work when you can easily pay someone else to do it for you, or you can just buy your clothes? On the other hand, consider some of the advantages of doing your own sewing. First, making your own clothes always costs less than buying them. Second, sewing can offer an opportunity to exercise your creativity. Third, whether you wear size XS or size XXXL, you won't find your fashion options limited to whatever the stores have in stock.

Seventeen Tutuila residents will find all of these benefits and more available to them after receiving their Certificates of Completion last week following their participation in the Sewing Project organized by the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of American Samoa, and co-sponsored by the Families, 4-H & Nutrition (F4-HN) Program of the Community & Natural Resources (CNR) Division of the American Samoa Community College. During the three months of weekly sewing classes held at the YWCA facility in Tafuna, the participants learned to combine basic patterning techniques with the use of electric sewing machines. Their instructor, Diana Tarrant-Gentles of CNR, guided them through various approaches to the craft, such as working from a pre-existing pattern, basing a job on measurements they take, and using an existing garment as a template.

In her capacity as a CNR Family and Consumer Science Agent, Tarrant-Gentles provides training to the community in subjects ranging from Parenting to Domestic Finance Skills to Home Decorative Crafts. However, she says that requests for her sewing classes far outnumber those for any other of her areas of expertise. "Within a 12-month period, I might have as many as 15 different sewing classes going at once among various groups from churches, villages and schools," she explained. "Some groups schedule the classes to once a week over several months, and others, such as groups in Manu'a, move through my course in as quickly as two weeks." The cost of Tarrant-Gentles' sewing instruction might account for its popularity. "I give these classes free," she says, "and open them to anyone. The participants just need to supply their own fabric. CNR even supplies the sewing machines for the training.

Having worked with CNR since she closed her own sewing shop in 1992 to share her skills with the community, Tarrant-Gentles has noticed some interesting trends among her students. "Here in Tutuila, mostly women come for the classes," she reflects. "In Manu'a, however, I usually have a lot more young men signing up because they enjoy learning how to sew their own shorts. I think the Manu'a guys have less of a hang-up about having to appear macho and avoid doing their own sewing, which I find both amusing and inspiring."

At last week's ceremony to mark the completion of the Sewing Project, speakers included local YWCA President Mrs. Upulevavau Tasi Lili'o and CNR Extension Program Coordinator Aufa'i Apulu Ropeti Areta. Both Lili'o and Areta had high praise for the participants, and expressed their wish that more American Samoa residents will discover the economic and creative advantages of sewing. Summarizing the event, Aufa'i remarked, "We take pride in furthering the College's mission of community service, as well as the CNR goal of helping our people achieve economic well-being."

HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

On November 5, 1900, Commander Benjamin Franklin Tilley, Commandant, U.S. Naval Station Tutuila, enacted his "Regulation No. 18-1900: Sunday," which directed that "Chiefs and magistrates shall, as far as is in their power, cause the Lord's Day to be duly observed." This regulation went on to say that, although it was unlawful for places of business to be open on Sunday, "...nothing herein contained shall apply to works of necessity or charity, the sale of medicines, the sale or delivery of milk, to hairdressers or barbers before 9 o'clock in the forenoon, or to persons employed on steamers, vessels or boats, or to any livery-stable keeper, or to any person letting boats for hire, or to any government employee while performing necessary duties." It was also "lawful on Sunday to cook food, to work in an emergency, to save life and property, to bathe, to take exercise, to visit relatives."

On November 5, 2002, Chief Election Officer Soli'ai Tuipine Fuimaono directed that a runoff election be held for American Samoa's Congressional Delegate seat in the US House of Representatives. This was necessary because no candidate "received the requisite 50%-plus-one votes". Incumbent Delegate Faleomavaega Eni received 4,294 votes (41.3%). Challenger Fagafaga Daniel Langkilde received 3332 (32.1%), while 2,767 (26.6%) citizens voted for Aumua Amata Coleman.

On November 7, 2000, American Samoa's Governor Tauese P.F. Sunia and Lieutenant Governor Togiola T.A. Tulafono were re-elected to another four-year term, receiving 6,110 votes (50.7%), and thus defeating Lealaifuaneva Peter Eugene Reid, Jr. and Afoafouvale Moega Lutu, who polled 5,769 votes (47.9%). 12, 056 votes were cast, representing an official voter turnout of 77%.

On November 8, 1961, Rear Admiral E.J. Peltier, USN, Chief of the Navy's Bureau of Yards and Docks, informed American Samoa's Governor, Hyrum Rex Lee, that he had prepared the necessary documentation to transfer all Navy property in American Samoa to the Government of American Samoa, in accordance with Public Law 87-157, enacted on August 17, 1961 (*q.v.*). Thus, ten years and four months after the Navy left American Samoa, its property was formally transferred to the American Samoa Government.

On November 9, 1901, in Pago Pago Harbor, Governor Benjamin Franklin Tilley's court martial (for being "in a state of intoxication," for "[lying] down amongst a number of native Samoans, both male and female," and for "[comporting] himself in a familiar and undignified manner with said natives" aboard USS *Abarenda*, en route from Apia to Pago Pago on May 15, 1901) began at 1:15 p.m., aboard USS *Solace*, with the battleship USS *Wisconsin*, flagship of Rear Admiral Silas Casey, lying at anchor nearby. Rear Admiral Robley D. ("Fighting Bob") Evans presided. The judge advocate was Captain J.T. Myers and the provost marshal was Captain H.C. Davis, both U.S. Marine Corps officers. Navy Surgeon William R. DuBose acted as Tilley's counsel. The Naval Station's surgeon, Dr. Edward Morris Blackwell, was the first witness to testify against Tilley. He was unable to prove that Tilley was intoxicated; only that he was walking "unsteadily" on *Abarenda's* deck.

On November 10, 1955, the MV *Joyita*, which had left Apia on October 3, 1955 with 25 people aboard, en route to Tokelau, was sighted, listing and half sunken, by the inter-island vessel MV *Tuvalu*, ninety miles north of Fiji with no one aboard, and most of her cargo missing. (One of the Pacific's most famous unsolved mysteries).

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ADOPT OR AMEND RULES

Pursuant to American Samoa Code Annotated (ASCA) 4.1001 et seq., the Development Band of American Samoa (DBAS) intends to adopt a Procurement Manual. Interested members of the public may review these documents and/or present their written comments on the same at the DBAS CEO's office located at the DBAS Building at Pago Pago, American Samoa from Wednesday, October 11, 2006 until Wednesday, November 8, 2006. DBAS is normally open for business Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For further information, please contact Ms. Mary Malauulu at telephone number (684) 633-4031.

ASEPA Responds to Oil Spill at Tafuna High School

On November 02, 2006, American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (ASEPA) representatives, William Sili and Iosefatu Vaouli, responded to noxious fumes reported by Ruth Matagi, Principal of Tafuna High School. According to Mrs. Matagi, noxious fumes were present in the vicinity of two newly constructed two-story building wings. Upon arrival at the site, William Sili, HazMat Branch Division Head, was able to identify the sources of the fumes. The fumes originated from a punctured 55-gallon diesel drum haphazardly situated on bare surface ground at the construction site, without proper storage and containment. The spill occurred in between two, two-story classroom wings, while school was in session. This discovery prompted ASEPA representatives to conduct an assessment and routine response measures to prevent the spill from spreading.

According to Faamao Asalele, Jr., Manager, ASEPA Air and Land Program, after reporting and discussing the incident with Technical EPA official, Mr. Peter Peshut, Mrs. Matagi was advised to notify the DOE main office of the spill, and that ASEPA strongly recommended the cancellation of school for the remainder of the day. This was due to the potential health and environmental risks associated with the spill. Other factors of concern which prompted this advisement included the close proximity of the spill to an occupied classroom wing, health and safety of the students and faculty, wind direction and speed, intensity of the noxious fumes and the extent of the cleanup operation.

Once the spill was controlled, the contractor, Asian Pacific Engineering and Construction Services (APECS) was instructed to conduct an immediate cleanup and restoration of the contaminated soil, under the direction and supervision of ASEPA representatives. An area of roughly 80 square feet of surface ground and 240 cubic feet of contaminated soil was excavated and removed from the school premises. Fertilizers were mixed into the soil at the spill site to accelerate the process of bioremediation.

APECS General Manager, Racto Ibanez, met with Faamao Asalele, Jr. and ASEPA Legal Counsel, Nathan Mease, to discuss the violations discovered at the construction site. Also noted during the discussions were preventative measures, housekeeping, reporting spills, as well as proper storage and disposal procedures for hazardous materials and waste. To date, no fines or penalties have been assessed against the contractor, as ASEPA continues to gather information about events leading up to the spill.

ASEPA Director, Fanuatele Dr. To'afa Vaiaga'e, encourages construction contractors to maintain adequate control of hazardous materials and waste, in addition to solid waste accumulation on construction sites to prevent spills, which can result in health problems and degradation of our groundwater. All hazardous materials and waste must be stored on a concrete

PUBLIC NOTICES

Total Maximum Daily Loads for Mercury and PCBs, and Arsenic Analysis for Pago Pago Inner Harbor

Pursuant to Section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act and its implementing regulations (40 CFR Part 130); the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (ASEPA) is requesting public comments on the draft Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) for Mercury and PCBs, and Arsenic Analysis for Pago Pago Inner Harbor.

The Federal Clean Water Act requires States, Territories, and authorized Tribes to develop TMDLs for impaired waters that are on the 303(d) list. TMDLs identify the pollutant load reductions that are necessary from point and nonpoint sources, and guide implementation work by Federal, State, Tribal, Territorial, and Local water quality protection programs.

A Tier 1 screening level study conducted in 1991 indicated that fish tissues from Pago Pago Inner Harbor contained elevated levels of arsenic, mercury, and PCBs. This study resulted in a health advisory issued by the American Samoa Government in October 1991, warning residents not to eat any fish caught in the Inner Harbor. A Tier 2 Fish Toxicity Study was recently completed (Peshut and Brooks 2005) and, based on the results, the fish consumption advisory for fish and shellfish from Pago Pago Inner Harbor will be re-issued.

The draft TMDL was prepared to determine how much reduction in arsenic, mercury, and PCBs loading is needed to attain applicable targets and associated water quality standards, and how pollutants in sediments are reduced through natural attenuation, and if necessary and feasible, remedial actions. Follow up monitoring is also discussed.

The draft Total Maximum Daily Loads for Mercury and PCBs, and Arsenic Analysis for Pago Pago Inner Harbor is available for public review, for 30 days from the date of this Notice, Monday to Friday, during office hours of 7:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. at the ASEPA main office located in Utulei.

All comments on the draft TMDL must be submitted in writing within thirty (30) days of the date of this Notice, addressed to the Director, ASEPA, P.O. Box PPA, Pago Pago, American Samoa, 96799. Comments and recommendations received will be included in the final draft document.

*To request a copy of the draft Total Maximum Daily Loads for Mercury and PCBs, and Arsenic Analysis for Pago Pago Inner Harbor, please contact ASEPA Water Program at 633-2304.
Contact Person: Malelega Tuiolosega, Program Manager, Public Awareness & Education
E-mail: lega9_t@yahoo.com*

BOARD OF TRADESMEN EXAMINERS

To All Tradesmen:

In accordance with Chapter 7 "Professions" "Tradesmen" of the American Samoa Code Annotated (ASCA), the Building Inspectors of the Department of Public Works will conduct site inspections of businesses that require tradesmen certification. Types of businesses include:

Air Condition & Refrigeration	Auto Mechanic Shop
Auto Painting Shop	Appliances Repair Shop
Construction Sites	Construction Offices
Electronic/Comp. Repair Shop	Sewing Repair Shop
Motor Rewinding	Landscaping/Tree Trimming Svcs.
Joinery/Uphostery Shop	Welding&Fabrication Shop
Etc., etc., etc.....	

All Tradesmen practicing in the Territory of American Samoa are required to have certificates for the 2007 calendar year.

Fines will be levied in accordance with the ASCA 3.0712 as of March 1, 2007 for tradesmen without valid certificates.

For further information, please contact (684)633-4116 ext. 241.

Fa'afetai,

HTC Lauvao Stephen Haleck
Chairman
Board of Tradesmen Examiners

CONTRACTORS' LICENSING BOARD

To All Contractors:

In accordance with ASCA 31.0514, all contractors' licensing expires on December 31, 2006. You must obtain your 2007 license by January 1, 2007 to avoid penalties under ASCA 31.056.

The three types of Licenses governed by this Board are:

1. General Engineering - Type - A
2. General Building - Type - B
3. Specialty - Type - C

The Building Inspectors, of the Department of Public Works, the Territorial Office of Fiscal Reform (TOFR) and the Development Bank Inspectors will conduct site inspections.

For further queries, please contact 684-633-4116 ext. 241.

Fa'afetai,

Kenape L. Aumavae
Chairman
Contractors' License Board

SHARE IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES

with our ASG workforce
as well as the citizens of American Samoa.
Email your articles, announcements, pictures or other
information to: **tapuitea@amsamoa.gov.as**
Deadline for submissions is Thursday @ noon.

Contact: Harry Stevens @733-1694
or
Vince Iuli @ 733-1041
or call 633-4116

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